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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 26 JUL 50

SUBJECT Political Officers on Polish
Merchant Ships

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In February 1950 a special training course for political officers was completed in Lodz. Twenty-five young Communists and U.B. agents had been trained to serve as political officers and agents on all the larger Polish merchant ships which travel to countries in which Polish refugees have been granted asylum.
2. It was said that these persons have for the most part been appointed as first officers on the vessels concerned, although they have no training in navigation or other maritime matters.
3. In instances where the graduates were too young to receive a position as first officer, they have been appointed radio operator or, if not trained for that work, they have been appointed "assistant" to the radio operator. As an example, aboard the SS HEL the radio operator is the political officer and UB agent.
4. In some cases the captains of the ships have protested the placing of such un-qualified men aboard the ships. The protests have been unsuccessful, and in some instances the captains have been transferred to other ships or released from duty.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.	072
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class. Changed To:	TS 2
Auth: HR 70-3	
Date: 2 June 78	
By:	

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